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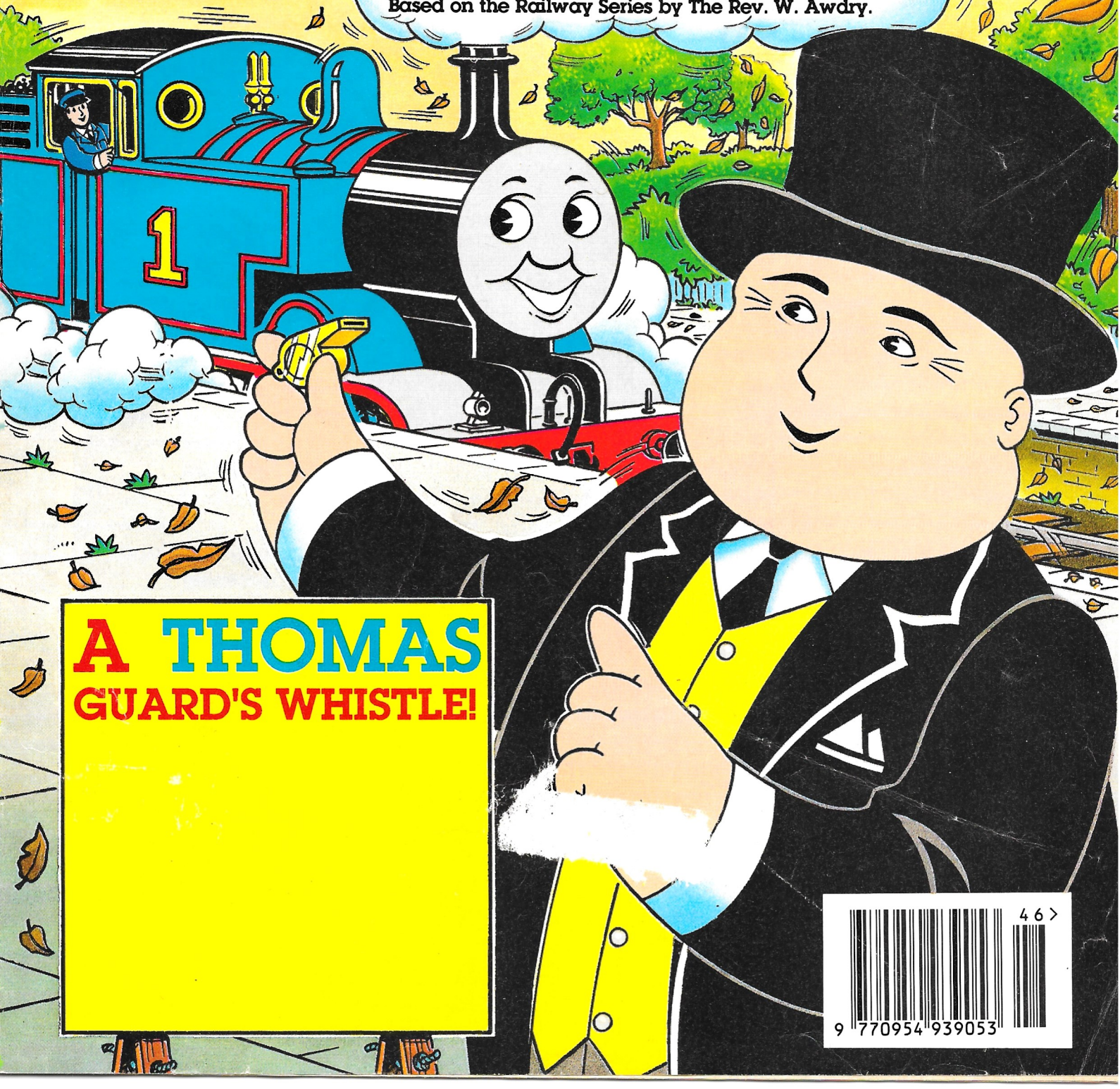
19th Nov.'93
No.159. 65p

THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS

Based on the Railway Series by The Rev. W. Awdry.



A THOMAS GUARD'S WHISTLE!

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NOTICEBOARD

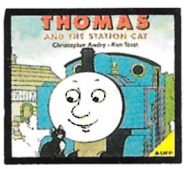
Peep! Peep! Edward is a Really Friendly Engine who works very hard on the branch line. In our first story, Edward shows that he is also a Really Helpful Engine. You can find out how Edward and Thomas help their new friend become Really Useful. Don't miss our second story either! Bertie the Bus has broken down! Oh dear! Peep! Peep!

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT!

British Home Stores are producing a brand new range of Thomas furniture including bedding, curtains, table lamps, bean bags and colourful wall paper. We will feature all the goods as competition prizes in a future issue of **Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends** fortnightly magazine!

OUR NEXT ISSUE!

Don't miss issue **160** of **Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends** for your splendid ***Thomas Doorhanger*** (cover gift) courtesy of **British Home Stores.** You will also have another opportunity to win some fantastic *Children's Picture Books*, courtesy of *Reed Books*, in our fourth **Thomas Books Competition.**



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If you would like to receive your very own, splendid **Fat Controller's Card** send one red, yellow and blue token together with your details listed below (details need only be listed on any one of the 3 coloured tokens when applying for this offer) plus a stamped addressed envelope to **The Fat Controller's Card Offer, Marvel Comics Ltd, 13/15 Arundel Street, London WC2.**

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Address .....

.....

Age .....

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THOMAS TOKEN

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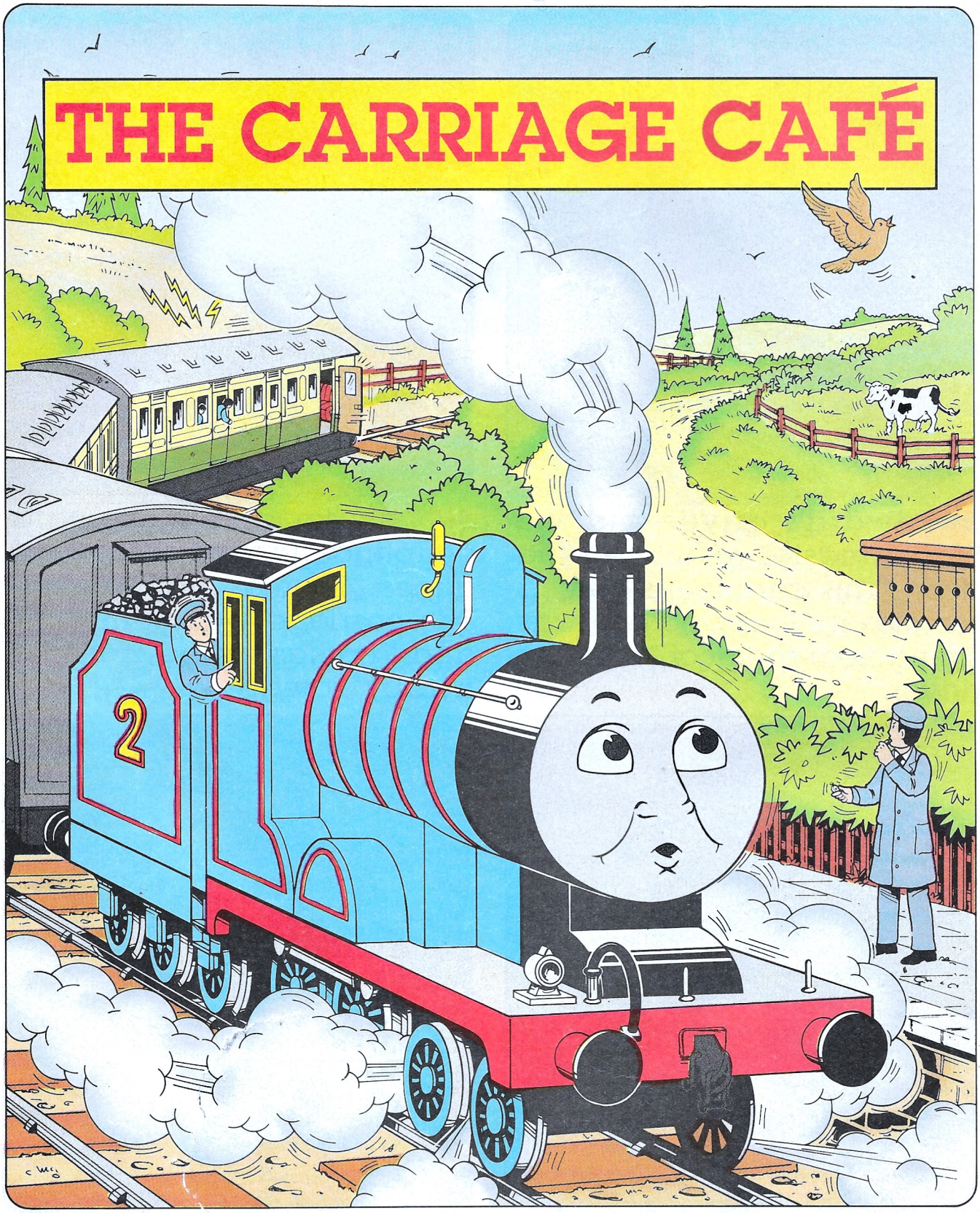
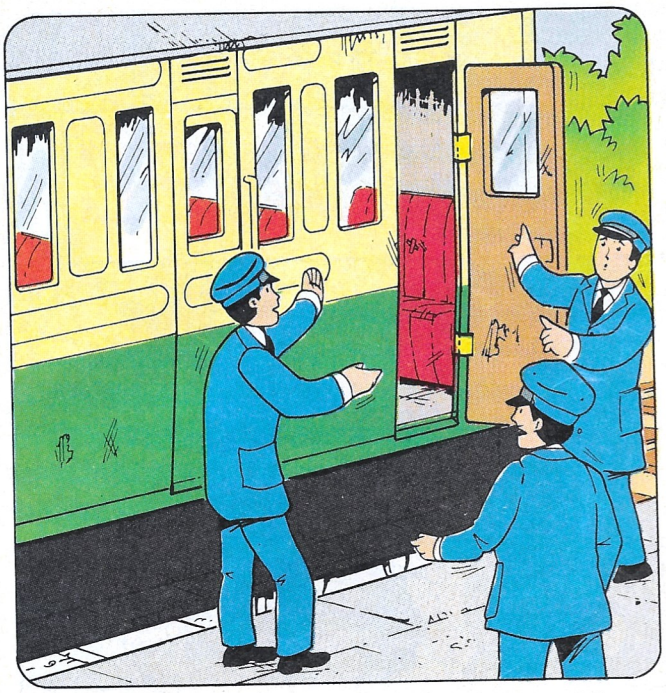
THE CARRIAGE CAFÉ

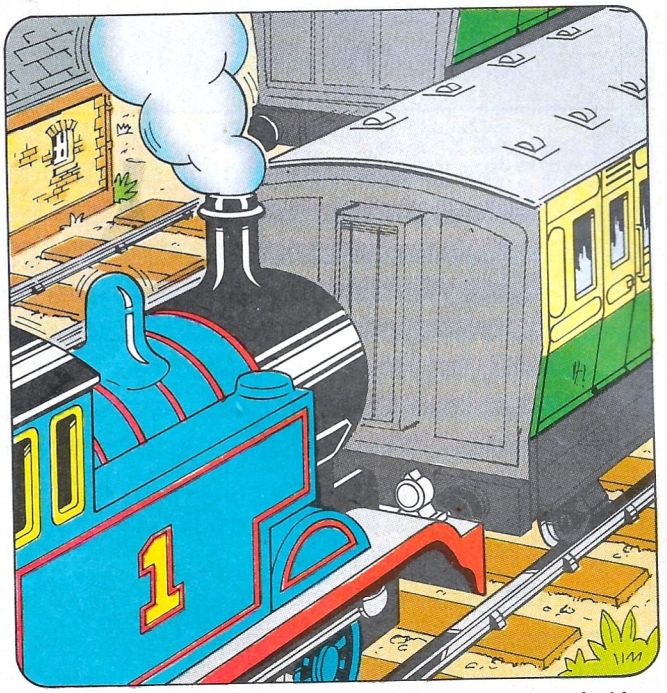


1. Edward puffed along his branch line. He was pulling a full passenger train. As he rounded a bend coming into a station, someone rang the alarm bell! Clang! Clang!

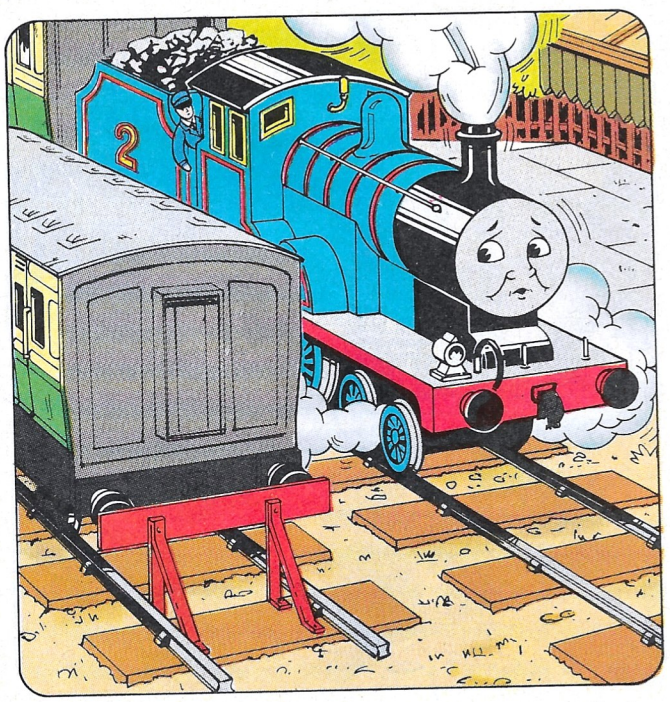
2. "Emergency!" cried Edward's driver, putting on the brakes. What a relief to discover it was just a carriage door that had swung open. But the door had broken!



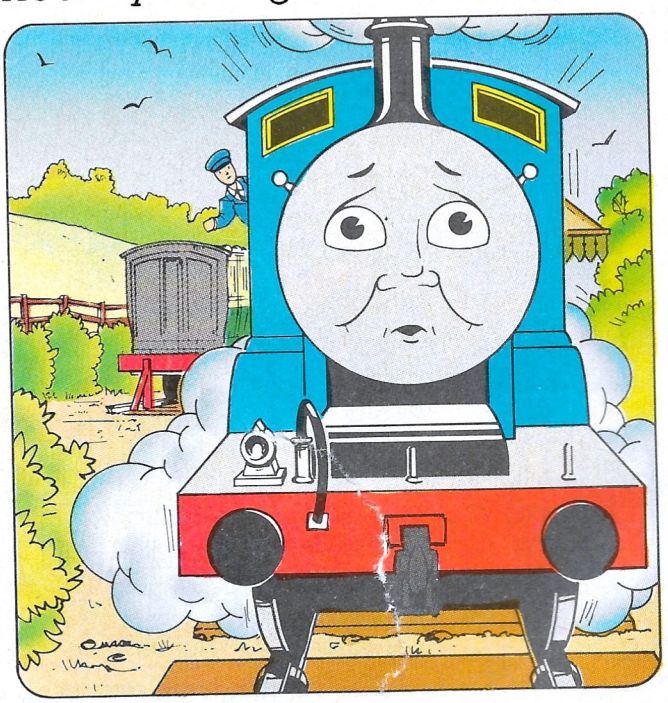
3. Edward's driver and the Stationmaster examined the door. "This carriage is getting too old. It's lucky no one was sitting near the door," said the driver.



4. "Only last week, one of its couplings broke!" the guard added. Thomas was sent for. The carriage was unhitched and Thomas towed it into a nearby siding.

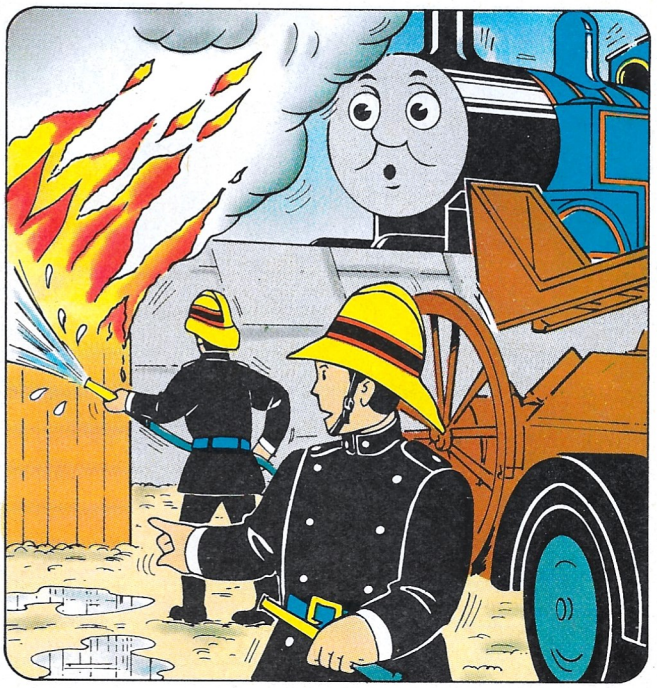


5. Edward steamed on his way with a shorter train. Next day, as he passed the station, he saw the carriage looking sad and lonely in the siding.

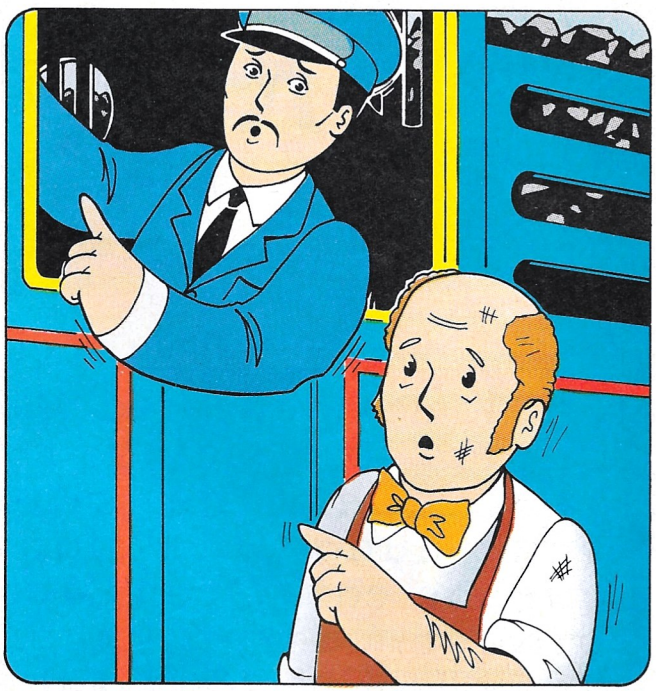


6. "It's a shame!" said Edward. "I expect that carriage will be sold for scrap!" called his driver. "The Fat Controller has taken it out of service!"

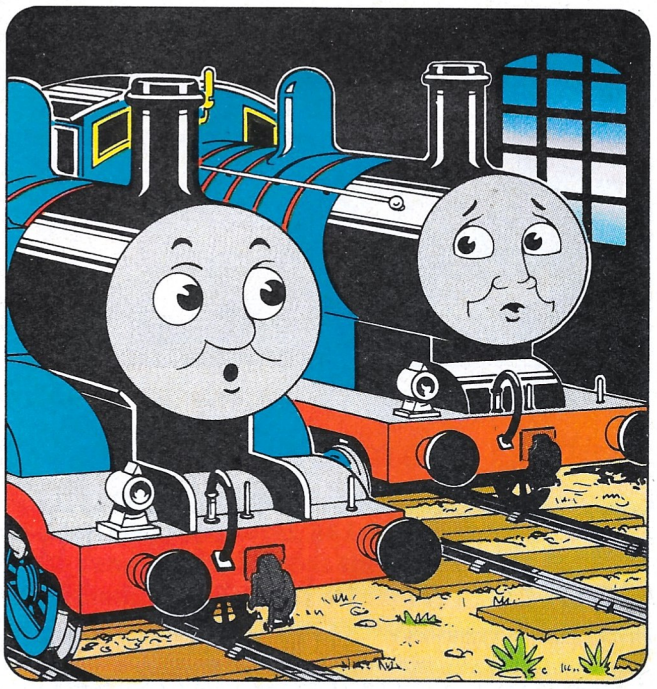
7. Meanwhile, Thomas was on the seaside run. As he puffed along, he saw thick smoke ahead and slowed down. "The seaside café is on fire!" Thomas gasped.



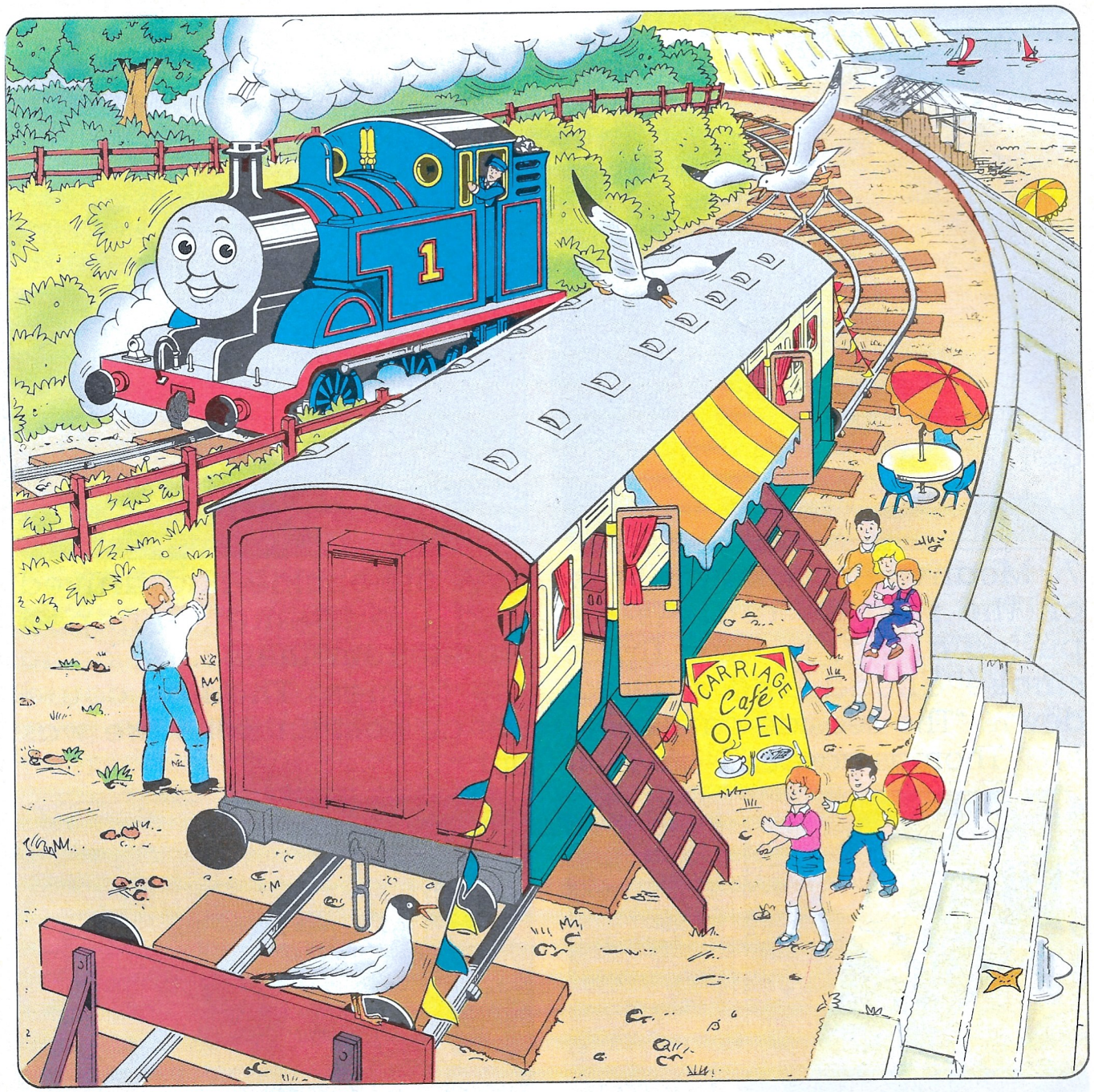
8. A fire-engine had arrived and the firemen pumped water from their hose on to the flames. Thomas could not go past until the fire was out.



9. The café owner was a retired engine-driver. He looked on sadly. "It will take months to rebuild the café," he said to Thomas's driver.



10. That evening, in the engine shed, Thomas told Edward his worries about the poor café owner. Edward was just as worried about the lonely carriage.



11. "I think there's a way to help them both!" Thomas explained. In the morning, he talked to the Fat Controller, who rang the café owner straight away. The old carriage was sent to the Works at once. The carriage was not turned into scrap but repainted and refitted in a very special way.

12. Thomas delivered the carriage to a siding, by the beach. The café owner hung up a sign: 'Carriage café Open'. The carriage looked much more cheerful. So did the café owner. "The new café looks popular already!" said Thomas happily.

THE END!

In our next issue: Thomas and Hoppy!

SENSATIONAL OFFER

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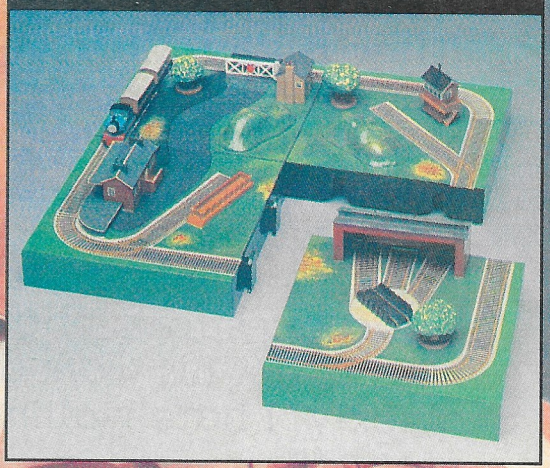

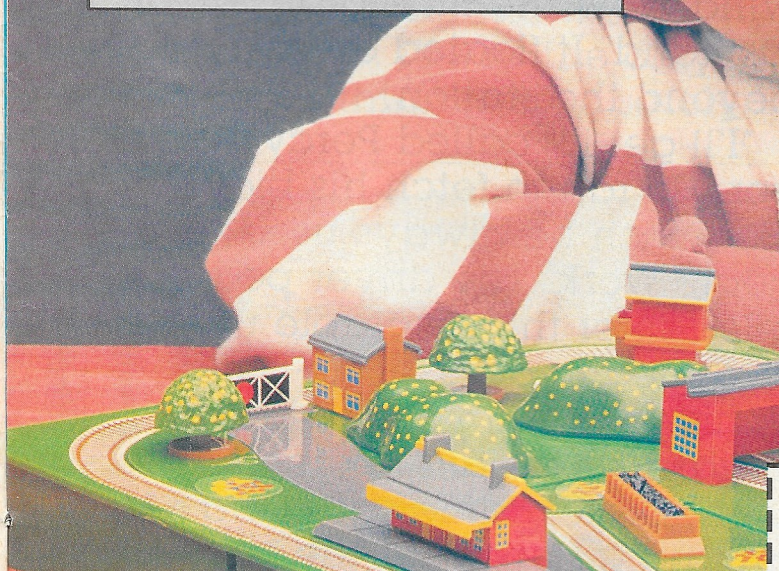

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TOO FAST!

Diesel was in a very bad mood. The Fat Controller had told him to do Thomas's work for the day while the little tank engine was serviced at the Maintenance Shed. Diesel set off on Thomas's branch line with some workmen who were to cut down the long grass beside the track.

It was very slow work. As the men cleared each section of embankment, the grass was loaded into Diesel's trucks. Diesel was bored.

"It's not fair!" he grumbled. "I'm a big strong engine who likes to get his work done quickly. I hate waiting around!"

Soon Percy arrived on the other track. "Pip! Pip! Hello, slowcoach!" he teased as he steamed past with a goods train.

"Grrr! Even Percy's going faster than me!" hissed Diesel.

All day, the workmen cut and loaded the grass until Diesel's trucks were full. Then he set off impatiently for the Main Station yard.

"We'll store the grass there overnight," said Diesel's driver. "Tomorrow, Thomas will deliver it to the hill farms as winter feed for the animals."

Diesel raced along so his trucks clattered and bumped.

"Slow down! Slow down!" the trucks cried nervously.

"Stop fussing!" replied Diesel, going even faster.

Percy had already returned to the Main Station yard. The Fat Controller was showing Percy's driver a new timetable. Suddenly, a gust of wind blew the timetable out of his hand. It floated away, beyond the station.

"I'll get it!" called Percy's driver. He ran to fetch his bicycle which he always used to get to work. The driver pedalled after the timetable until it landed in a bush. He put it in his pocket and rode back towards the Main Station. Just then, Diesel came speeding around a bend into the yard.

"Too fast! Too fast!" sang the trucks.

"Nonsense!" replied Diesel.

But one of the trucks bounced off the rails and overturned. Its load of grass fell beside the track. Next

moment, Percy's driver appeared on his bicycle.

"Oh, no! My brakes have failed!" he cried. "I'll crash!"

The driver saw the grass in the yard and had an idea. He rode through an open gate and steered the bike towards the huge heap. Diesel and Percy watched as the driver rode straight into the grass and toppled off his bike. The Fat Controller hurried to see if he was alright.

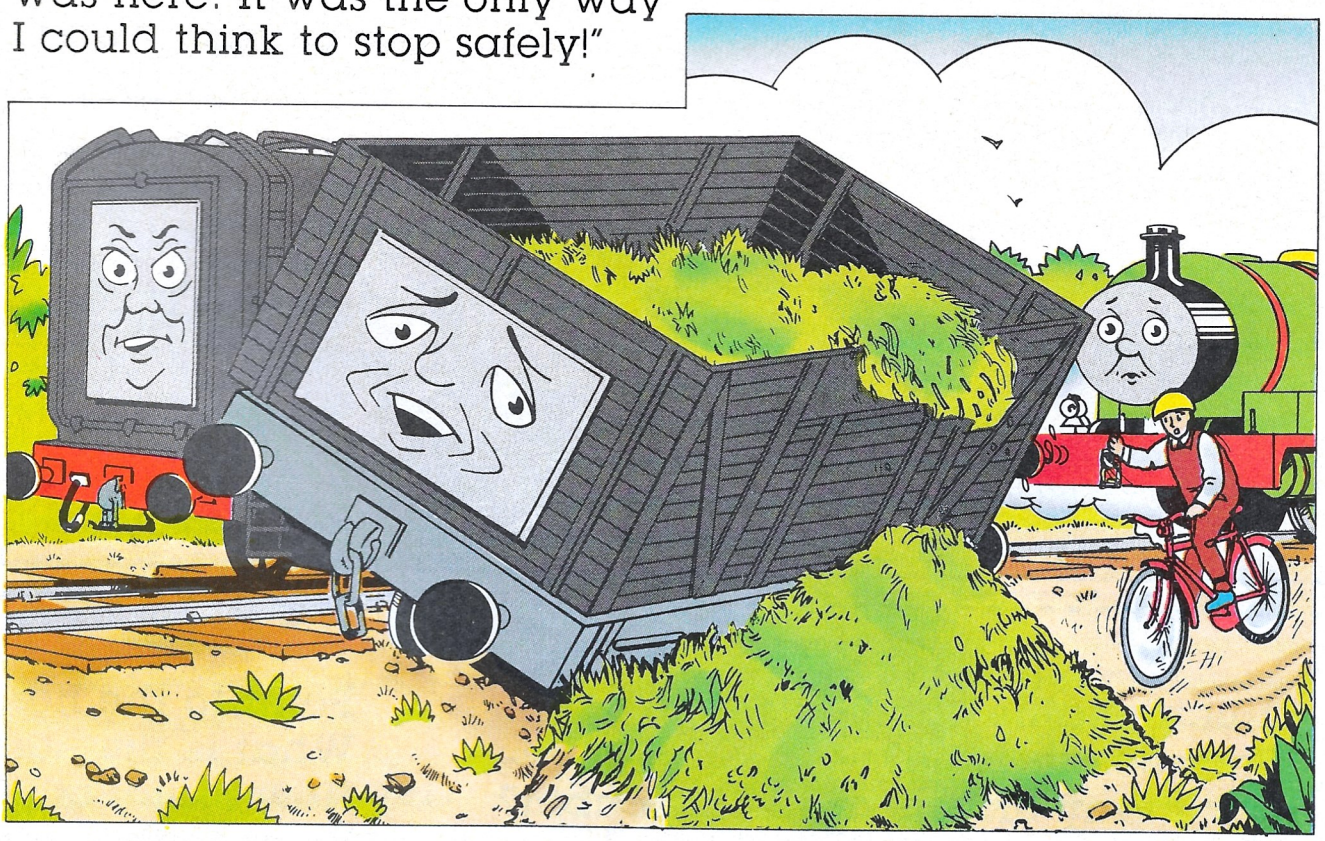
"I'm fine, thanks to my soft landing," replied the driver, picking himself up and brushing grass off his overalls. "It was lucky for me the grass was here. It was the only way I could think to stop safely!"

The Fat Controller went to see Diesel. "I've often warned you about going too fast with trucks," he said, "but this time, you have prevented a nasty accident."

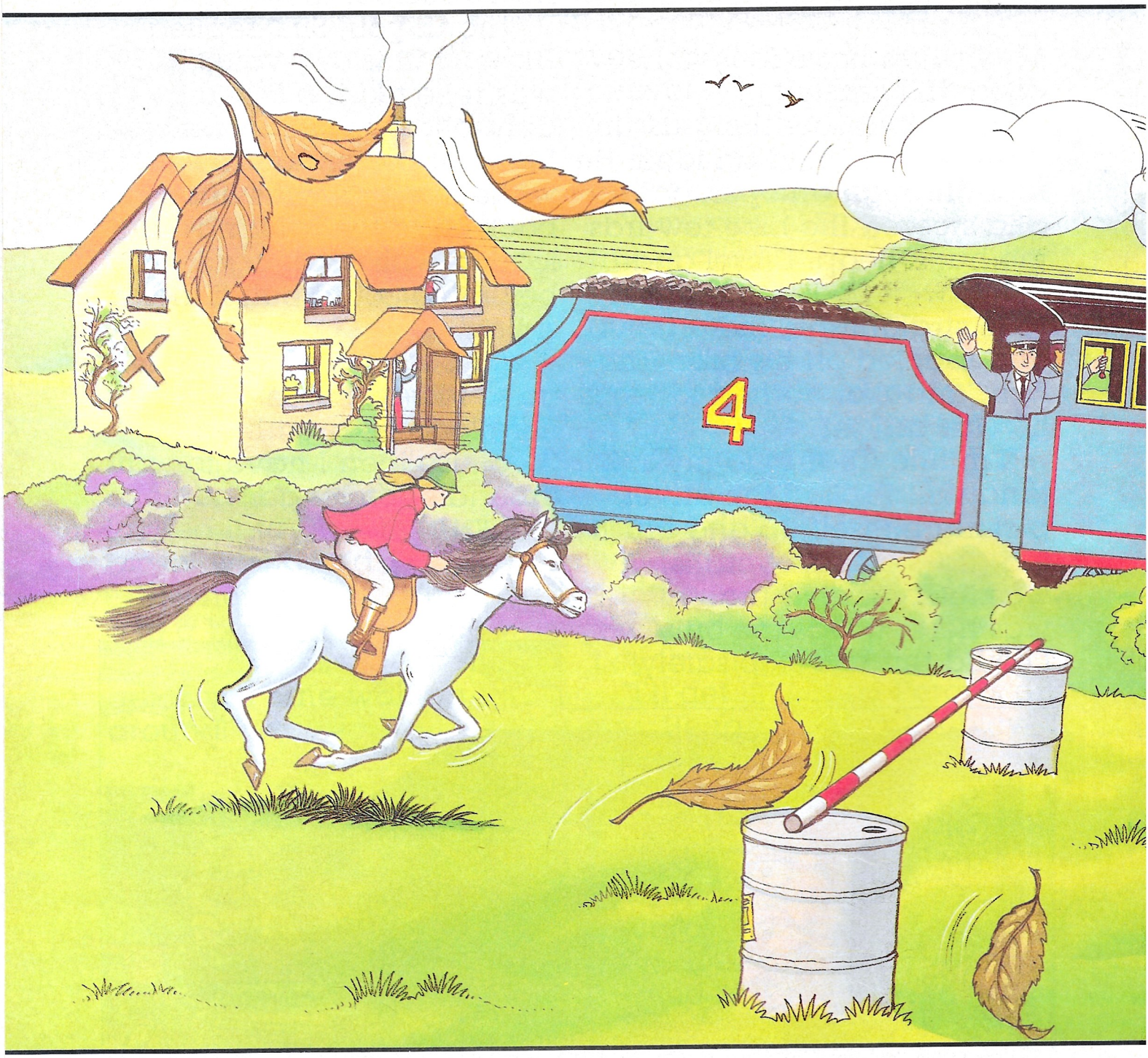
"Thank you, Sir," replied Diesel, in his oily voice. He was relieved the Fat Controller was not cross with him. But Diesel had to wait while the truck was lifted back on to the rail and loaded with grass again before he could pull it into a siding.

"Gah! That's the last time I go so fast one of my trucks is derailed," he grumbled, "because then I have to wait around even longer!"

THE END!



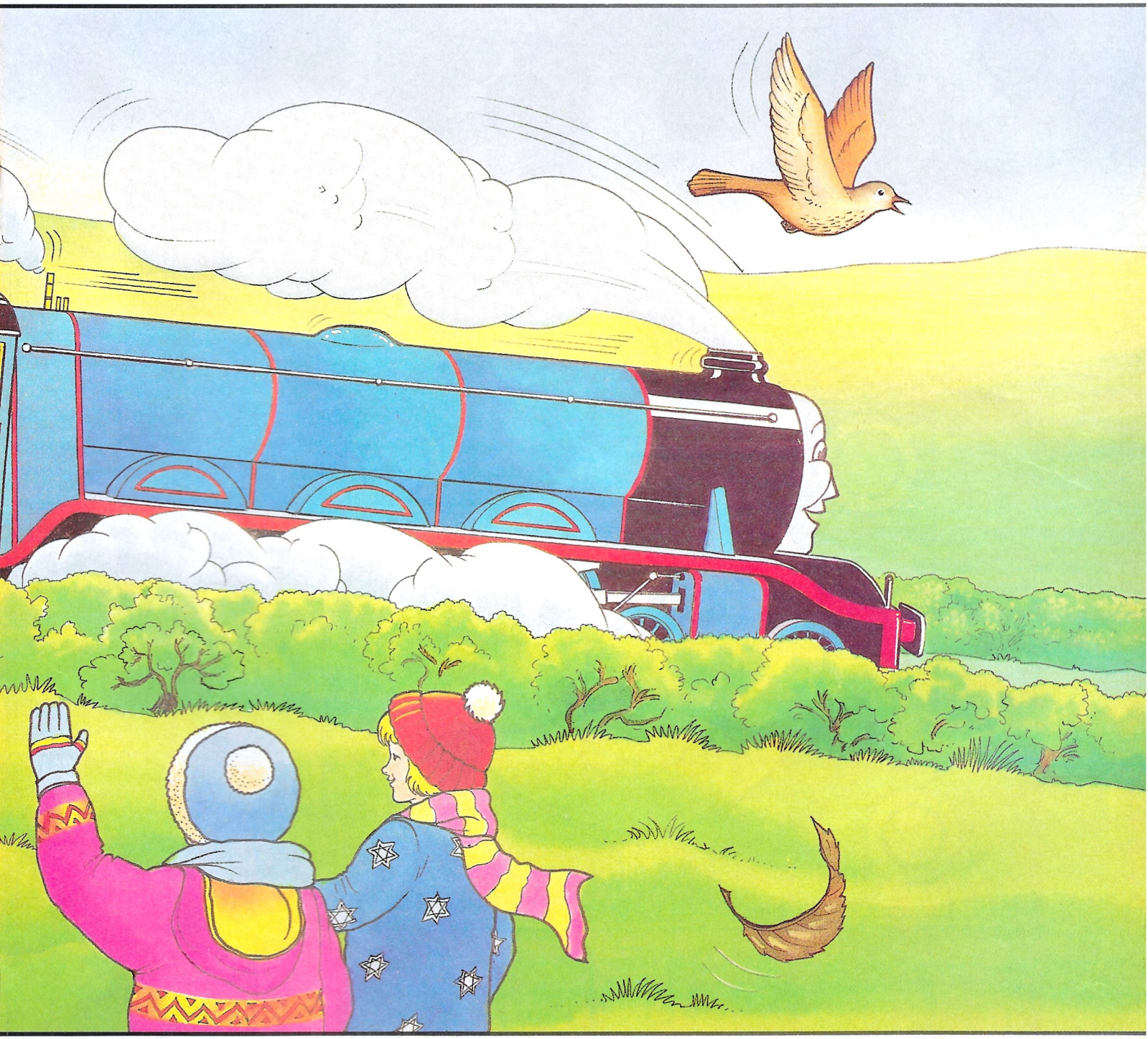
Down the



Which engine can you see?
What colour is he?
How many drivers are in his cabin?
What number is he?

Point to the horse rid
What is the horse ab
How many children
Point to the cottage!

hill!



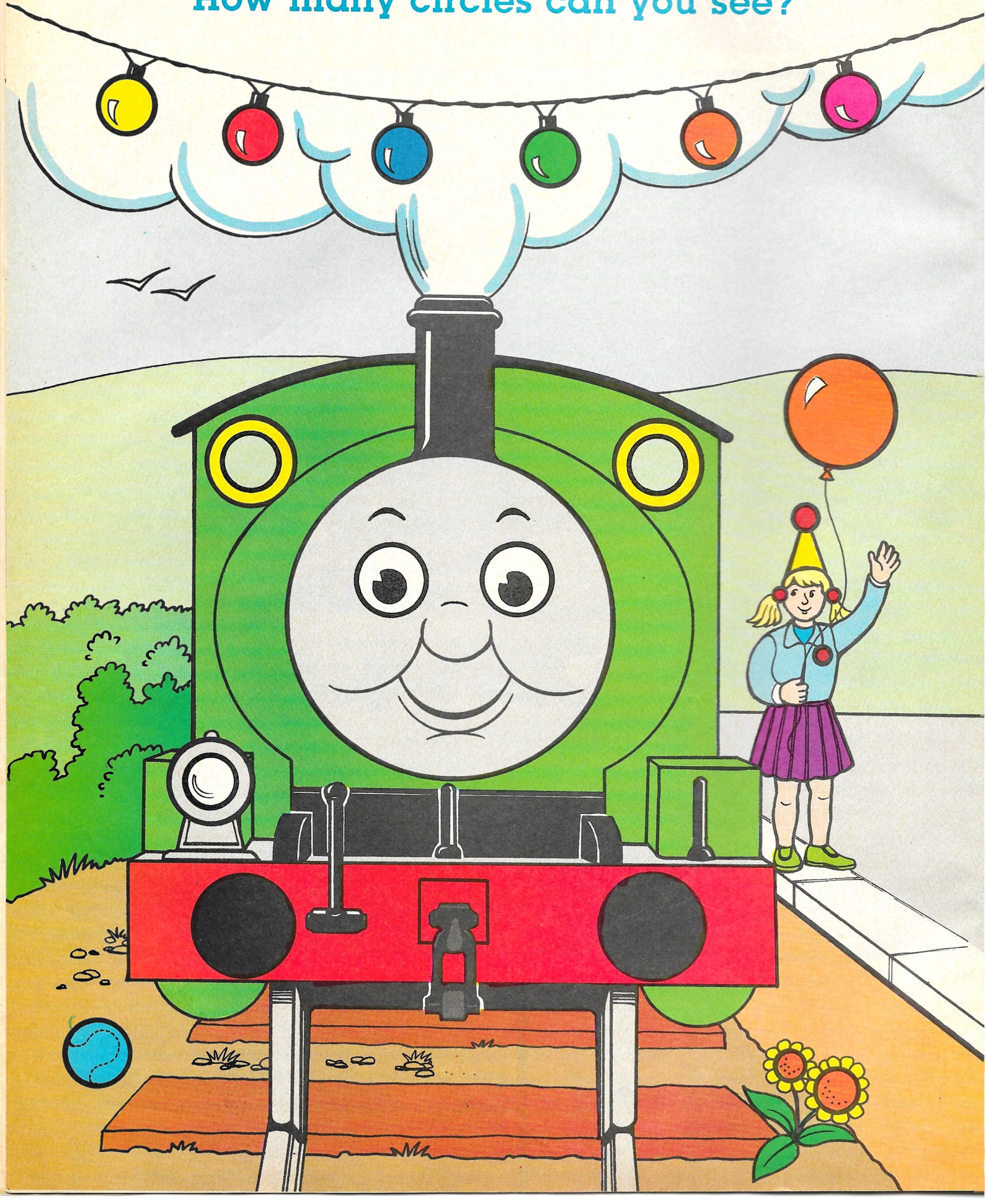
t to jump over?
e watching the horse rider?

Note to parents:
This page is designed to form part of a colourful mural for your child's bedroom, playgroup or classroom. After you have finished reading the comic with your child, remove this part of the centrespread by cutting along the dotted line. There will be a **'mural page'** in every issue of **Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends.** Why not collect each one and watch Thomas and his friends puff all around the room!

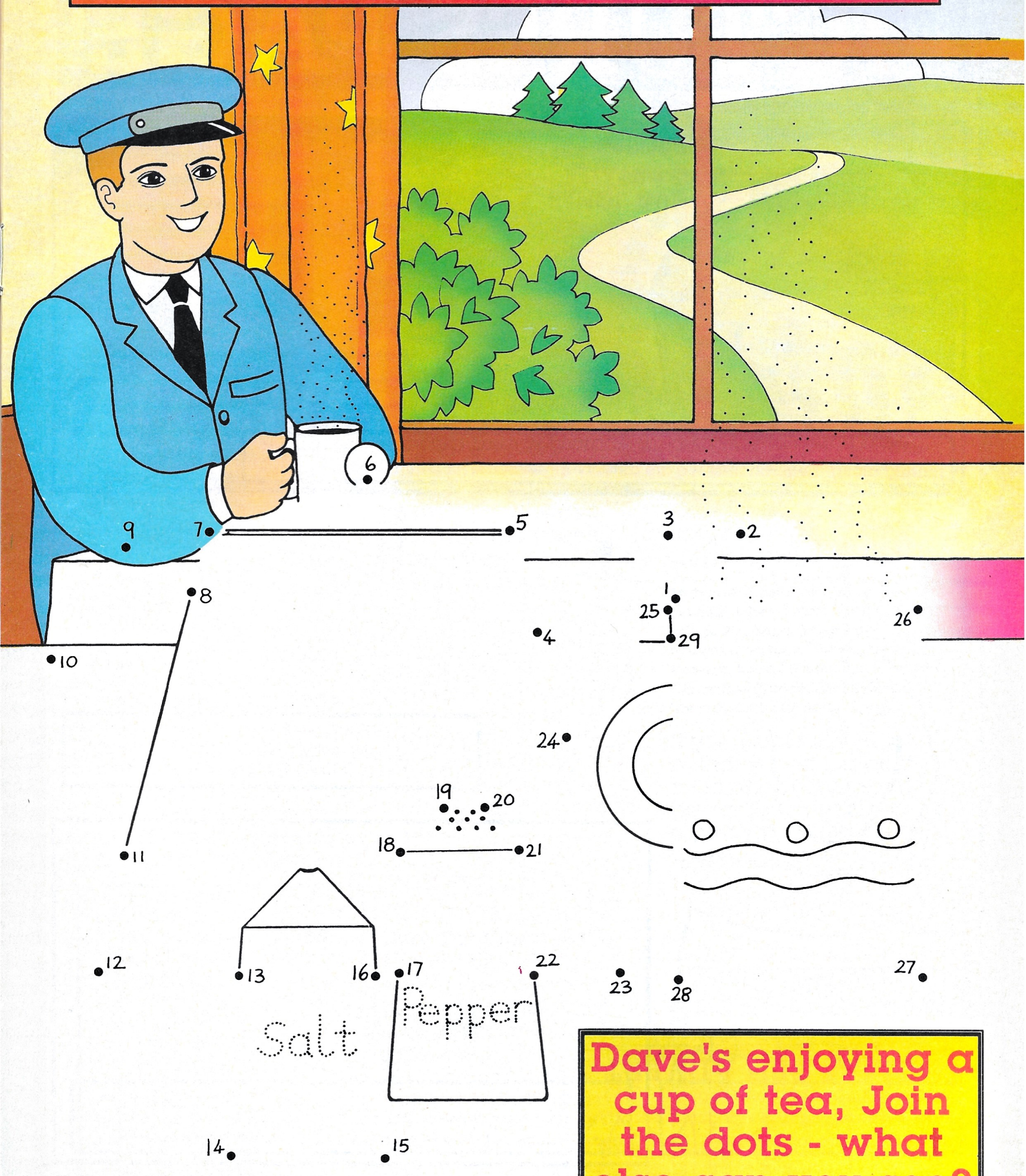
In our next issue: Maintenance time!

COUNTING TIME!

How many circles can you see?



JOIN THE DOTS!

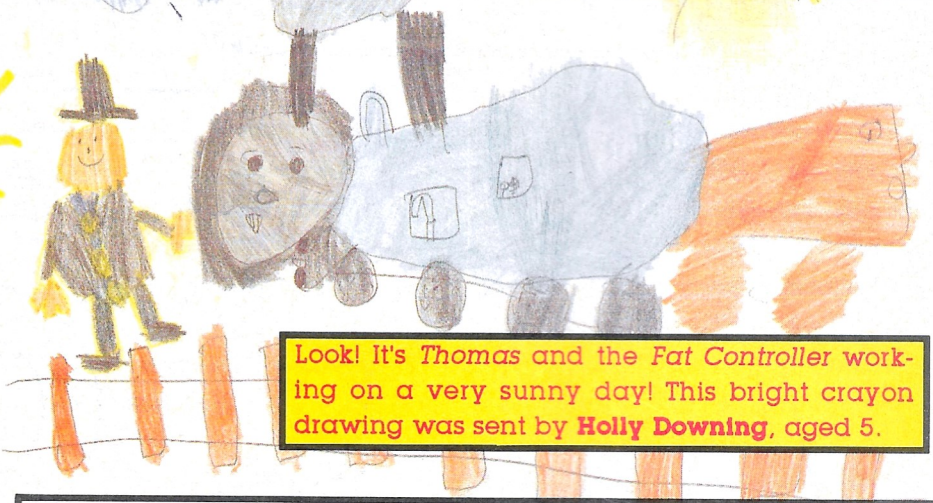


Dave's enjoying a cup of tea, Join the dots - what else can you see?

THE FAT CONTROLLER'S PICTURES PAGE!

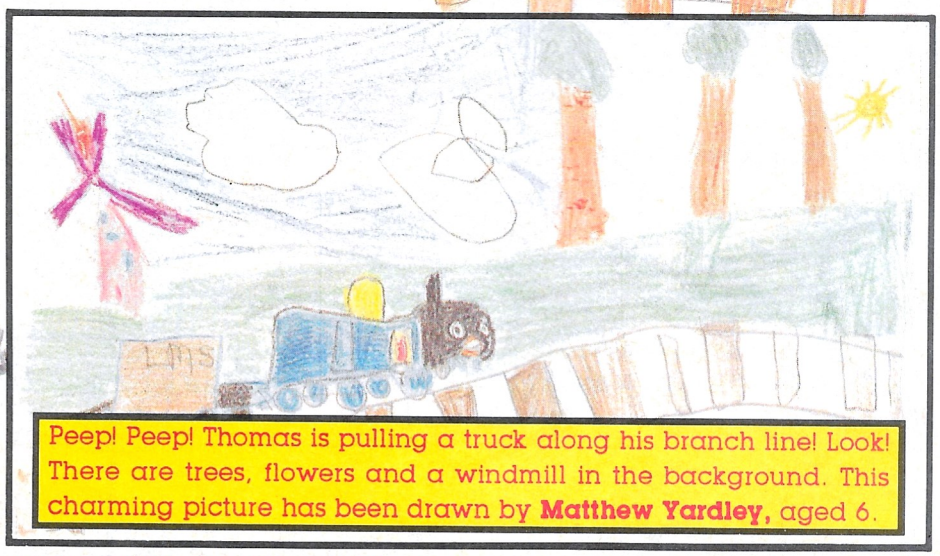
Look at these colourful drawings of Thomas and his friends!

Peter Winstone of W.Sussex has sent us a wonderful watercolour painting of *James* puffing along the main line! We are all very impressed with your colouring, Peter!



Look! It's *Thomas* and the *Fat Controller* working on a very sunny day! This bright crayon drawing was sent by **Holly Downing**, aged 5.

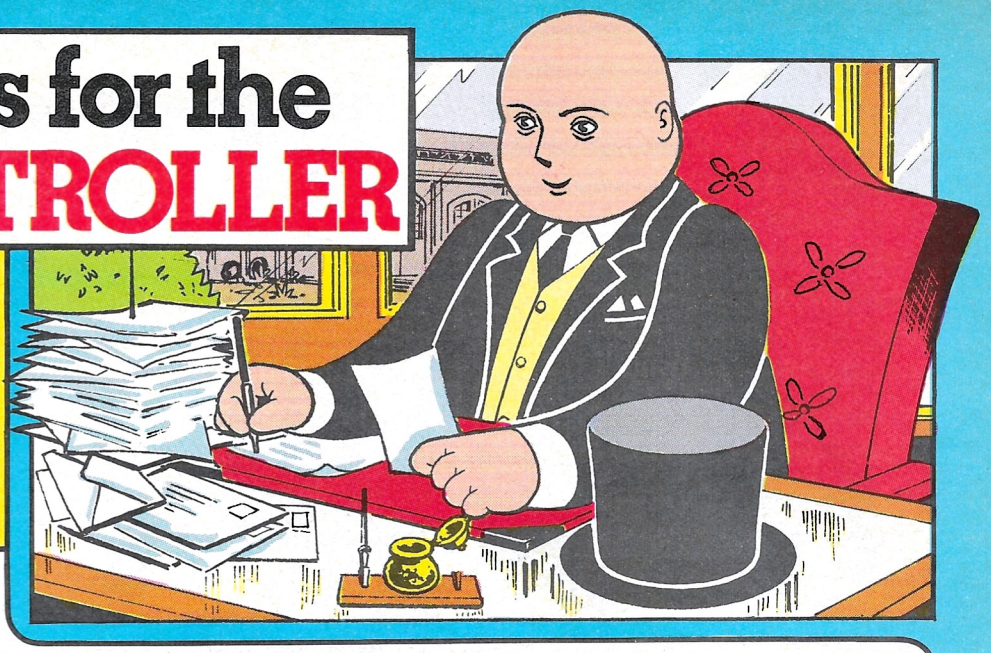
Thomas is a Really Useful Engine! **Sam Barnard**, aged 5, coloured this little picture for us to see!



Peep! Peep! Thomas is pulling a truck along his branch line! Look! There are trees, flowers and a windmill in the background. This charming picture has been drawn by **Matthew Yardley**, aged 6.

Thank you all for sending in your pictures! We are sorry that we can only print a few. If you would like to draw a picture and have a chance of seeing it printed in a future issue, please send it to:
The Fat Controller's Pictures Page, Marvel Comics, 13-15 Arundel St, London WC2 3DX.

Your letters for the FAT CONTROLLER



Have you got an amusing story to tell? Do you have a question you would like to ask about Thomas or his friends? If so, then write to me at the address shown below! I would be so very pleased to hear from you!

STAR LETTER!

Dear Fat Controller,
I like trains and stories about Thomas and his friends. I went to the National Railway Museum and saw the **'City of Truro'**. It was green and shiny! I think it is one of the fastest steam trains in the world.

Lots of love,
Christopher Smith,
aged 2.

I say! Gordon the Express Engine is very impressed to hear that you have seen the fastest engine in the world, as he takes great pride in going fast. I believe that there are many splendid engines on display in the National Railway Museum!

The sender of any letter that is printed as our **STAR LETTER** will win some splendid **Thomas Pre-school** toys courtesy of *ERTL (UK) Ltd.*

OVER THE TUNNEL!

Dear Fat Controller,
I go out with my mum and dad and stand on the step bridge watching the trains go underneath. When I wave at them, they all wave back and blow their whistles.

Love from **Shane Canham,** aged 3.

My! My! Shane! I hope they don't blow smoke over you when they blow their whistles. I've had to remind all my engines to be very careful when they go under tunnels, especially when they are in a hurry!

THE OLDEST ENGINE!

Dear Fat Controller,
I would like to know who is the youngest and who is the oldest of your trains and traction engines?

Love from **Mark James Marr,** aged 3.

All of my engines have been working with me for a very long time. Edward is one of the oldest engines while Percy is the youngest member of my team! Donald and Douglas travelled the farthest distance to reach the Island of Sodor when they arrived from the Caledonian Railway in Scotland.

BIRTHDAYS!

Matthew Christopher, Harry Jenkins, Edward Field, David James Pickering, Alistair and Gregory Courtney, Christopher Cassidy, Louise Wanstall, Christopher Turton, Jack Phillips, Thomas Hoar and Sarah Sprigg.

If you would like a birthday mention printed in one of our issues, please send details on a postcard at least nine weeks in advance!

Yours
Sir Topham Hatt
The Fat Controller!

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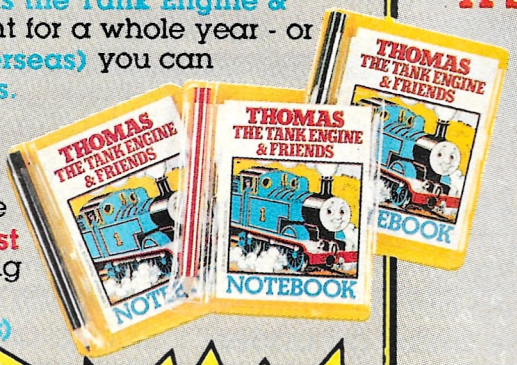

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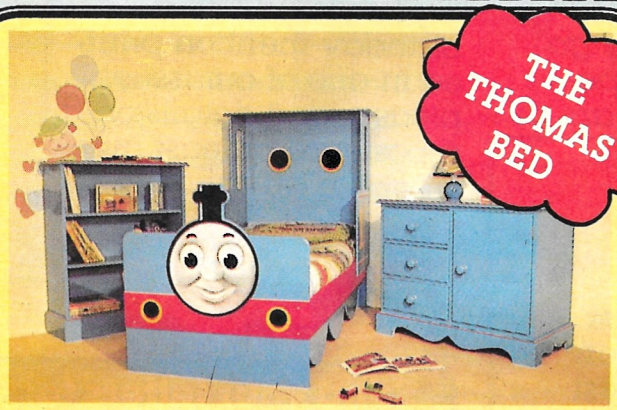

THE THOMAS BED

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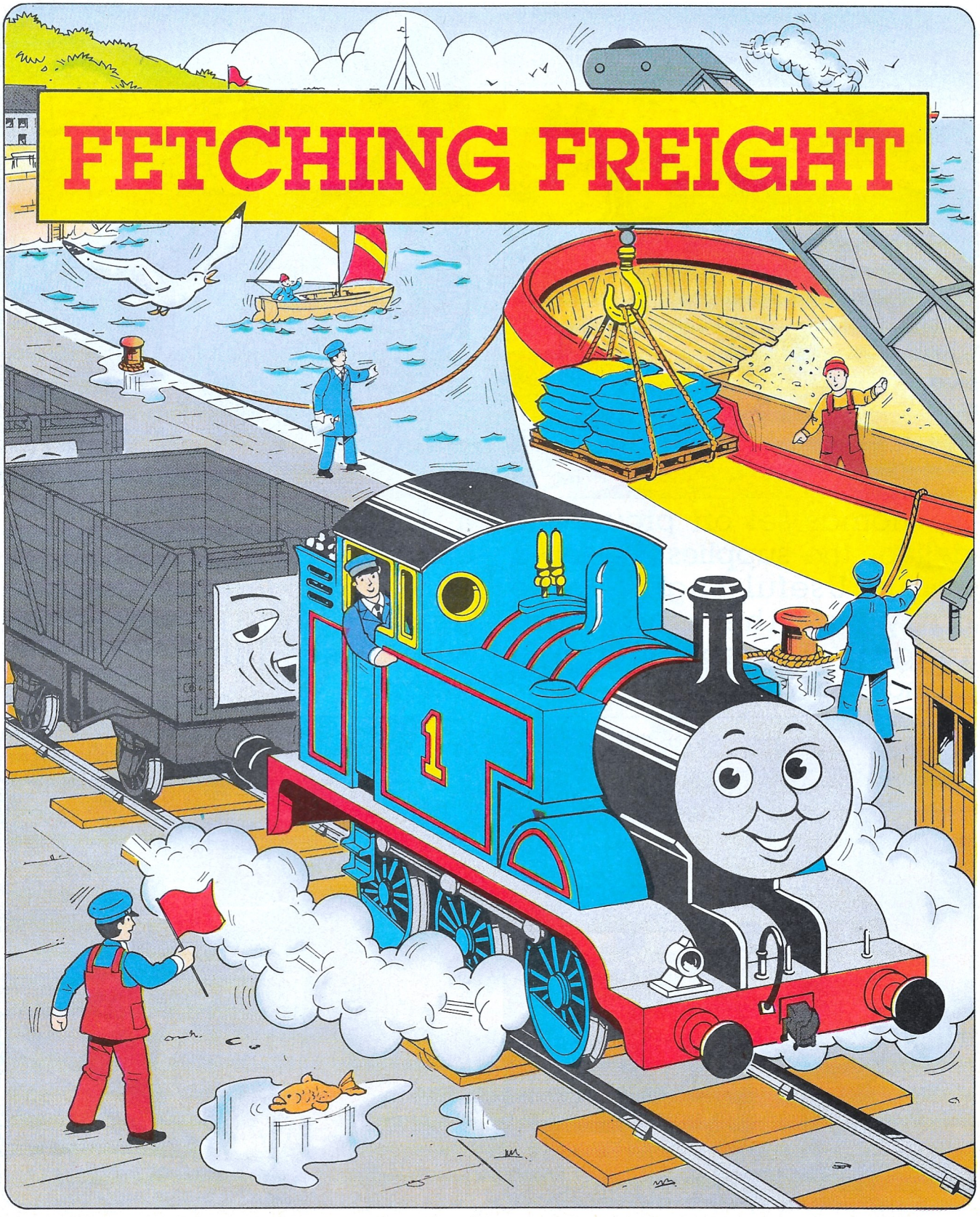
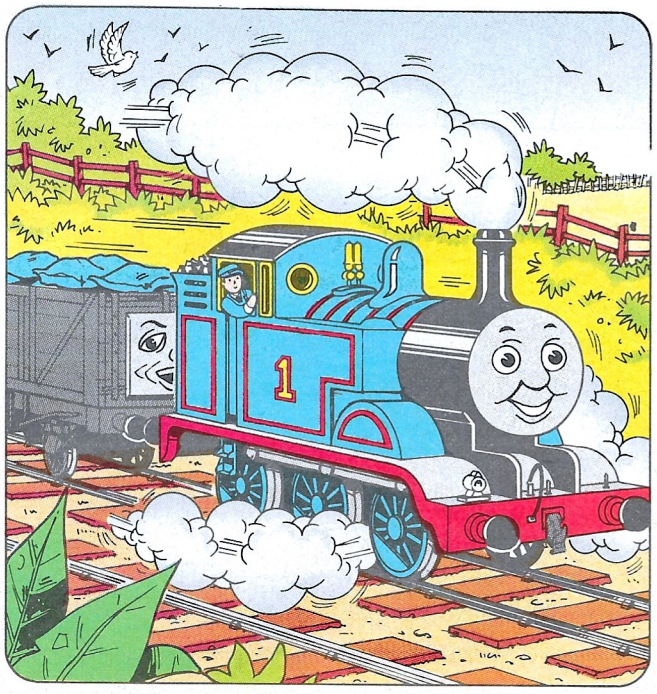
FETCHING FREIGHT

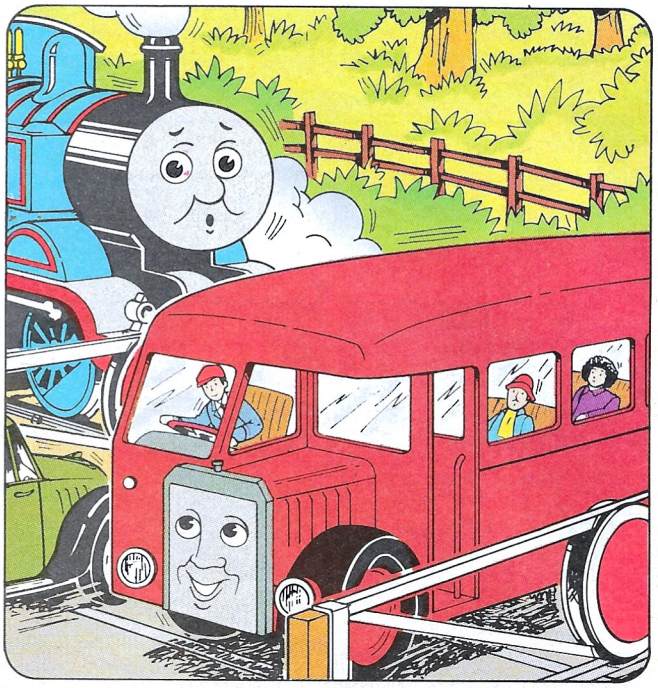


1. Thomas was very excited. He was at the Big Harbour collecting building materials being shipped from the mainland. A crane lifted them out of the ship's hold.

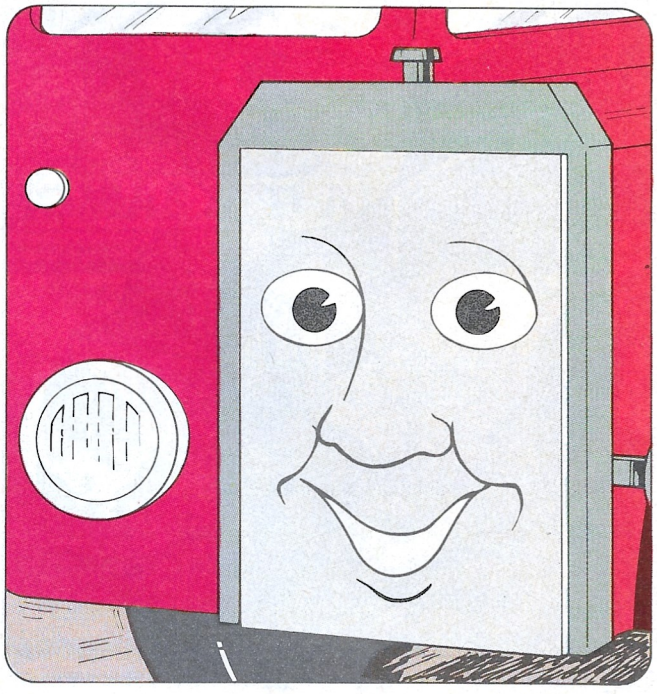
2. All the building supplies were loaded into Thomas's trucks. "They are for a new factory being built near Wellsworth!" his driver explained.



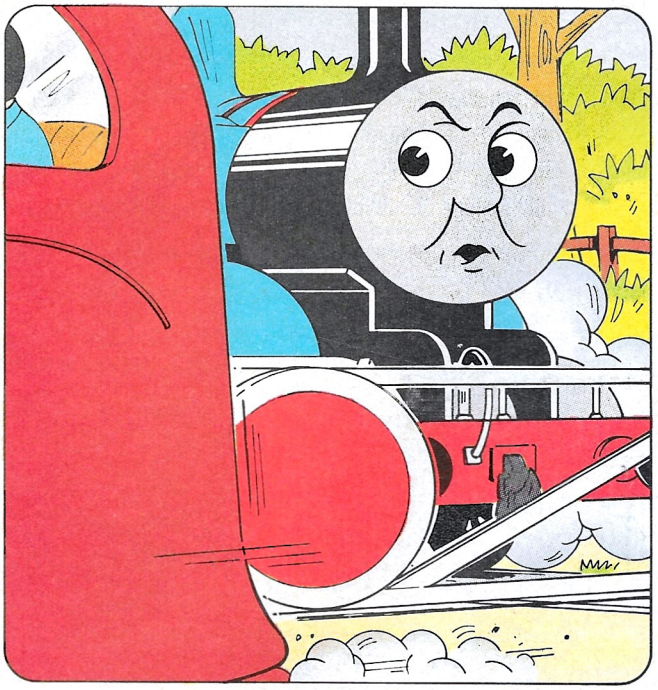
3. Thomas set off proudly to deliver the supplies. He felt a Really Useful Engine to be carrying the important freight. Thomas steamed along eagerly.



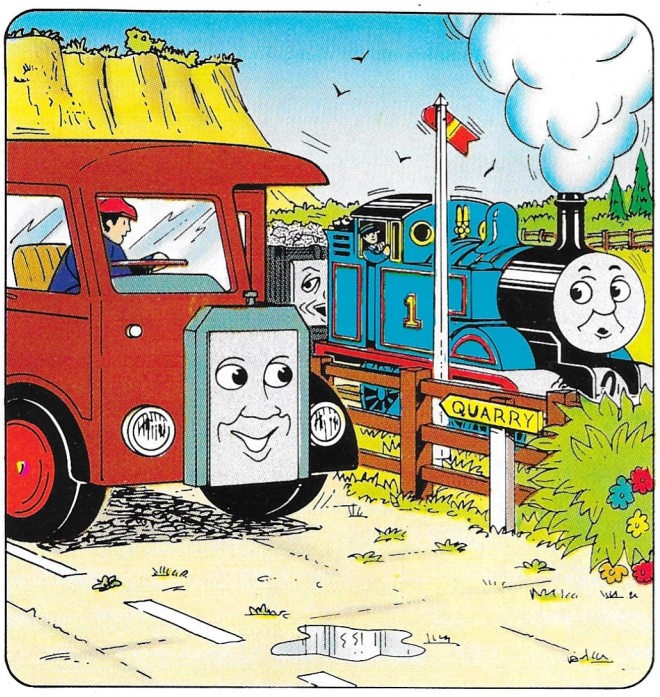
4. Thomas stopped at a level crossing. Then he saw Bertie with a bus-load of passengers. Thomas hoped Bertie would see him with his freight.



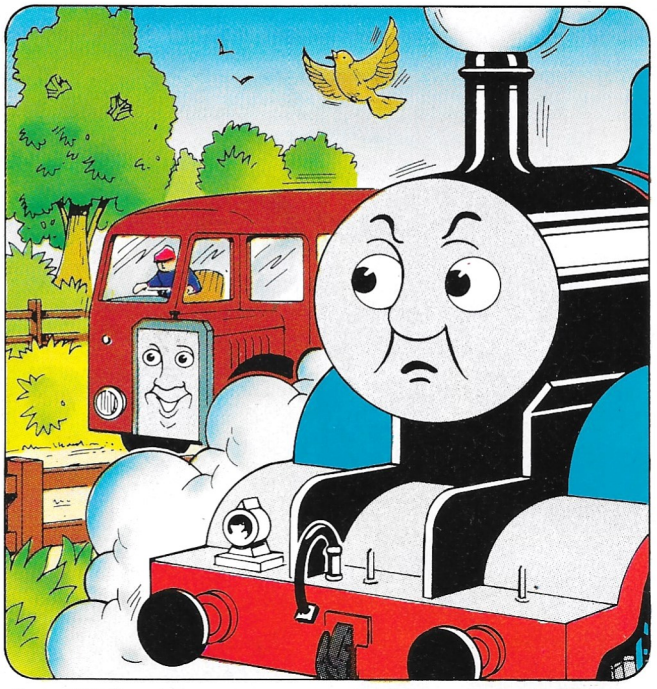
5. "Hello, Thomas!" called Bertie the Bus. "I haven't an empty seat today. I see you've just got a load of old freight!" "Cheek!" fumed Thomas.



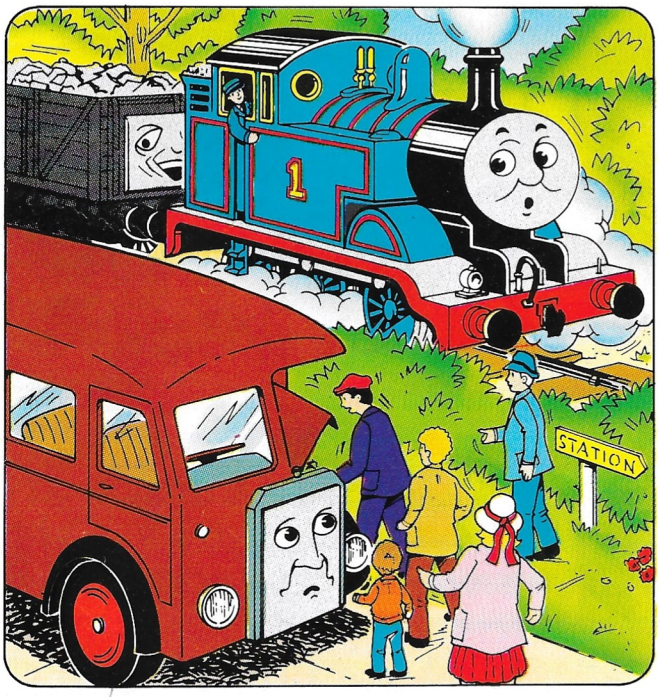
6. "People on the Island of Sodor need all sorts of special supplies," he told Bertie. "Where would we be without freight!" Bertie laughed and drove off.



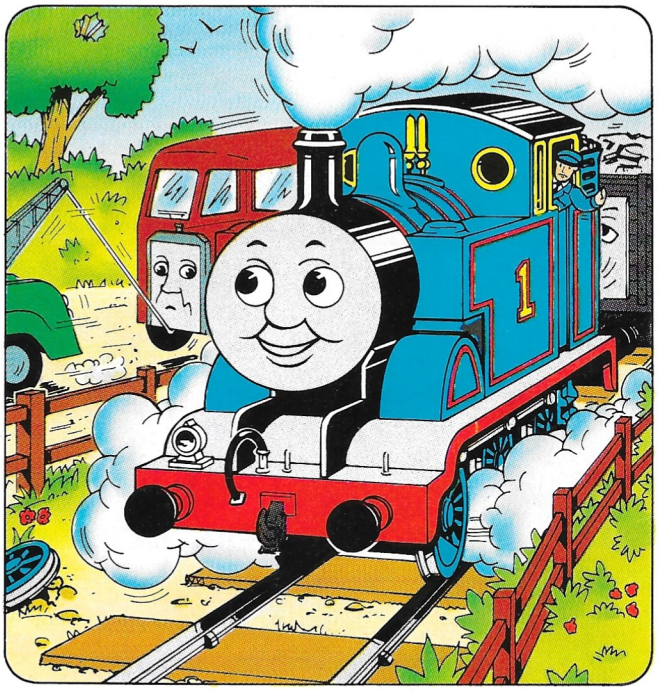
7. Next morning, Thomas was helping to carry slate from the quarry. While he waited for a signal to change, he saw Bertie pull into a bus stop nearby.



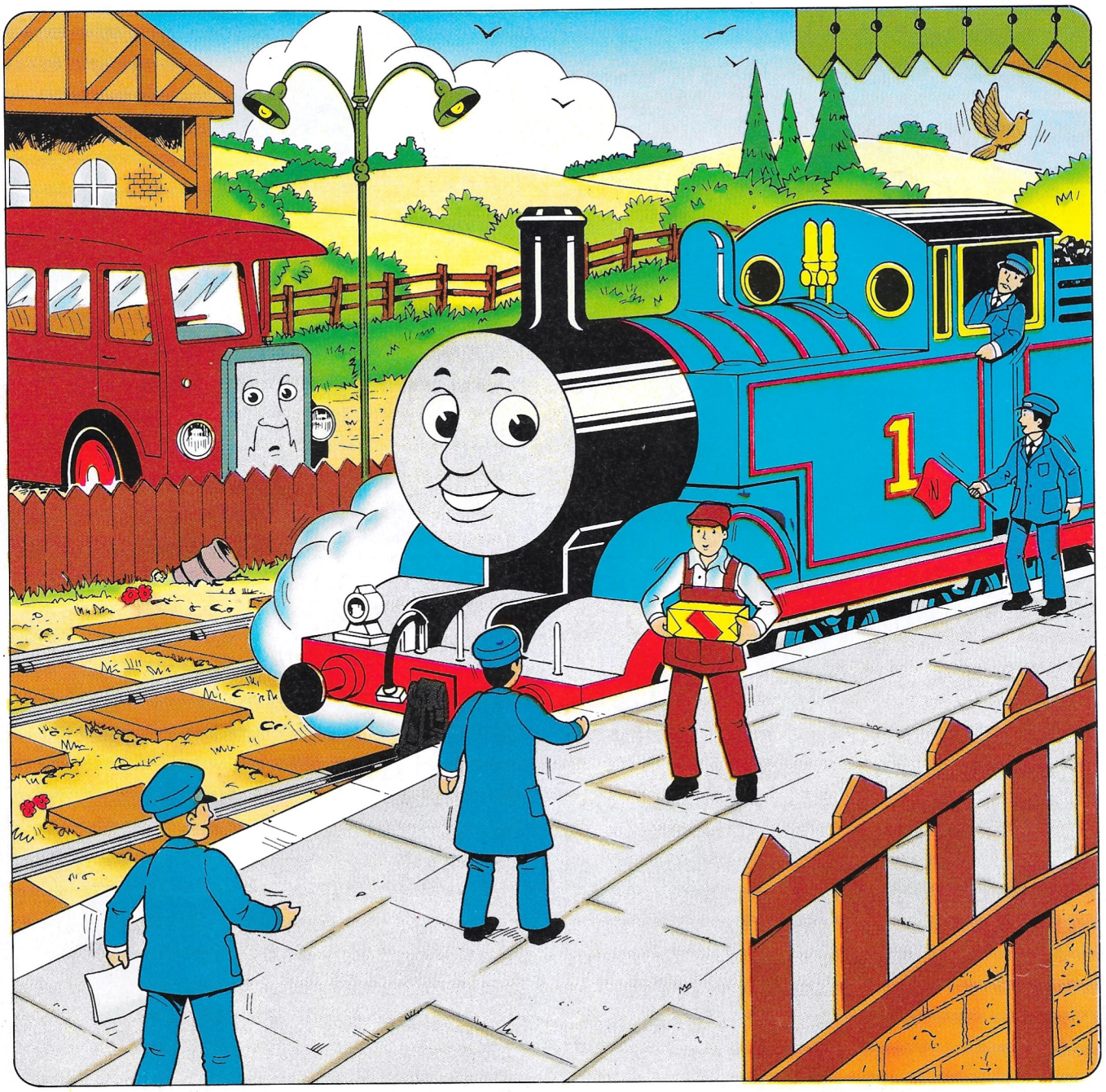
8. "Not more dull freight, Thomas!" teased Bertie as he drove off. Soon the signal moved to show the line was clear again and Thomas puffed on his way.



9. He slowed to approach the next station. Thomas spotted Bertie in the lane. His bonnet was open and all his passengers had stepped out of the bus.



10. "I've broken down!" Bertie groaned to Thomas, who rolled into a siding to unhitch the trucks. A lorry arrived to tow Bertie back to the depot.



11. The Stationmaster rang the Fat Controller, who sent Daisy to collect all Bertie's stranded passengers. Back at the bus depot, Bertie's motor needed a new part. The mechanic did not have the spare part and had to order it from another depot on the mainland. It was sent urgently by sea.

12. The next day, Thomas went to the Big Harbour to collect Bertie's new part. Thanks to Thomas's help, Bertie was soon repaired. "If it wasn't for freight, I wouldn't be carrying passengers at all!" he admitted to Thomas. "Even buses need special supplies!" laughed Thomas.

THE END!

In our next issue: Thomas takes a ride!